

It would be disgraceful and false for any T.V. station to present Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11" as "news". And it is disgraceful and false for Sinclair Broadcasting to broadcast "Stolen Honor", the one-sided anti-Kerry documentary, as news.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to order all its 62 affiliate stations to air "Stolen Honor" as "news" violates, I believe, its obligation by law to serve the public interest (since it is using public airwaves for free). The public is never served by newscasters who present opinion masked as news.

This situation makes clear the danger of allowing large companies to own many stations across the nation: when they hand down commands like this they stifle regionalism, voices and diversity, which are crucial to a healthy, vibrant democracy. Also, to have a slanted piece of journalism presented as "news" breeds cynicism and apathy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them.